## STATE SENATOR - JIM BARCIA - 31st DISTRICT

## Barcia Press Release

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## Barcia Joins Governor in Recognizing Thumb Area Michigan Works! For 2005 Success

LANSING – State Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) applauded the Governor and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) for granting the Thumb Area Michigan Works! Employment Training Consortium \$33, 977 in Work First Incentive Awards. These awards are funded with Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and State General Fund money.

"The Thumb Area Michigan Works! Office is doing great work in helping residents gain the skills and training they need to find work," said Barcia. "Poorly negotiated free trade agreements have hit our area especially hard, so it is critical that we keep rewarding those agencies that are placing people in good paying jobs."

Michigan Works! Agencies receive these incentive awards based on their performance in placing Work First participants during the 2005. The Thumb Area Michigan Works! will use these funds to enhance their services in 2006.